

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 5-7 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,651,216 to ARAI et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,325,149 to KAWAHARA et al. Applicant further respectfully traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 2-4 as being obvious over ARAI et al. in view of KAWAHARA, and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,410,915 to YAMAMOTO.

According to a feature of the present invention, a value corresponding to a wiper position of a digital potentiometer is stored in a memory when electrical power to a diaphragm control apparatus is interrupted, as discussed, for example, at pages 12-15, 18 and 19 of Applicant's specification. Applicant submits that at least this feature is lacking from the prior art combinations set forth by the Examiner.

The Examiner admits (see prior Office Action mailed on April 15, 2004) that ARAI et al. fails to disclose a diaphragm control signal setting device that is provided with a memory to store a diaphragm control signal when a power source is interrupted, so that the diaphragm control signal that was set at the time of the power interruption can be output when the power source is re-applied (see paragraph 8 on page 4 of the above-noted Office Action). Applicant submits that this feature is also lacking from KAWAHARA and YAMAMOTO.

Applicant submits that KAWAHARA teaches adjusting an aperture value to a value stored in a microcomputer provided in a camera body to coincide with an aperture value stored in an exchangeable lens when the exchangeable lens is attached to the camera body, or a power source is applied. Applicant submits that KAWAHARA is silent with

respect to storing a value in a memory that corresponds to a wiper position of a digital potentiometer when electrical power is interrupted.

Applicant additionally submits that even if one attempted to combine ARAI et al. and KAWAHARA in the manner suggested by the Examiner, one would fail to arrive at the instant invention, as defined by the amended claims, as such a combination would at least lack the above-discussed feature. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection.

Applicant further submits that YAMAMOTO fails to disclose that which is lacking in ARAI et al. and KAWAHARA. Thus, Applicant submits that the combination of these three references would also fail to result in Applicant's present invention, in which a value corresponding to a wiper position of a digital potentiometer is stored in a memory upon the loss of electrical power, so that the stored value can be read out of the memory upon a re-supply of the electrical power, recommencing the output of the remote diaphragm control signal.

By the current amendment, Applicant has clarified the presently defined invention by amending claim 7 to include the subject matter of claims 2 and 3. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the pending rejections and to indicate the allowability of the amended claims.

Pursuant to M.P.E.P §714.13, Applicant contends that entry of the present amendment is appropriate because the proposed amended claims avoid the rejections set forth in the last Office Action, resulting in the application being placed in condition for allowance, or alternatively, the revised claims place the application in better condition for purposes of appeal. Further, the revised claims do not present any new issues that would

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require any further consideration and/or search by the Examiner, and the amendment does not present any additional claims. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

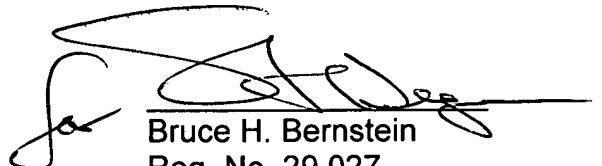
In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Masayuki ARAI



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438